

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff,
v.
SHANA GAVIOLA and JULIO
SANDOVAL,
Defendants.

Case No.: 1:22-cr-00233-JCC JLT SKO

PRELIMINARY JURY INSTRUCTIONS

The jury instructions attached hereto were read to the jury in open court.

Dated: December 3, 2025

KEITH HOLLAND, CLERK OF THE COURT

By: /s/: Yee Vue
Deputy Clerk Yee Vue

1 INSTRUCTION NO. 1

2 DUTY OF JURY

3 Jurors: You now are the jury in this case, and I want to take a few minutes to tell you
4 something about your duties as jurors and to give you some preliminary instructions. At the end
5 of the trial, I will give you more detailed instructions that will control your deliberations.

6 When you deliberate, it will be your duty to weigh and to evaluate all the evidence
7 received in the case and, in that process, to decide the facts. To the facts as you find them, you
8 will apply the law as I give it to you, whether you agree with the law or not. You must decide the
9 case solely on the evidence and the law before you.

10 Perform these duties fairly and impartially. You should not be influenced by any person's
11 race, color, religious beliefs, national ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender, or
12 economic circumstances. Also, do not allow yourself to be influenced by personal likes or
13 dislikes, sympathy, prejudice, fear, public opinion, or biases, including unconscious biases.
14 Unconscious biases are stereotypes, attitudes, or preferences that people may consciously reject
15 but may be expressed without conscious awareness, control, or intention. Like conscious bias,
16 unconscious bias can affect how we evaluate information and make decisions.

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1 INSTRUCTION NO. 2

2 THE CHARGE—PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE

3 This is a criminal case brought by the United States government. The government
4 charges the defendants Shana Gaviola and Julio Sandoval with interstate violation of a protection
5 order, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2262(a)(2), and aiding and abetting that crime in violation of
6 18 U.S.C. § 2.

7 The charges against the defendants are contained in the indictment. The indictment
8 simply describes the charges the government brings against the defendants. The indictment is not
9 evidence and does not prove anything.

10 The defendants have pleaded not guilty to the charges and are presumed innocent unless
11 and until the government proves the defendants guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. In addition,
12 the defendants have the right to remain silent and never have to prove innocence or present any
13 evidence.

14 To help you follow the evidence, I will now give you a brief summary of the elements of
15 the crimes that the government must prove to make its case:

- 16 1. There was a protection order that prohibited or provided protection against
17 violence, threats, or harassment against, contact or communication with, or physical proximity
18 to, another person;
- 19 2. The defendants caused that other person to travel in interstate commerce;
- 20 3. The defendants caused such travel by force or fraud; and
- 21 4. In the course of, as a result of, or to facilitate such conduct or travel, the
22 defendants knowingly engaged in conduct that violated the protection order or that would violate
23 the protection order in the jurisdiction in which the order was issued.

24 To “aid and abet” means intentionally to help someone else commit a crime. The
25 elements of aiding and abetting are:

- 26 1. Someone else committed an interstate violation of a protection order;
- 27 2. The defendant aided, counseled, commanded, induced, or procured that person
28 with respect to at least one element of interstate violation of a protection order;

1 3. The defendant acted with the intent to facilitate interstate violation of a protection
2 order; and

3 4. The defendant acted before the crime was completed.

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1 INSTRUCTION NO. 3

2 UNCHARGED OFFENSES

3 You are here only to determine whether the defendants are guilty or not guilty of the
4 charges for which you are instructed. The defendants are not on trial for any conduct or offense
5 not charged otherwise.

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1 INSTRUCTION NO. 4

2 SEPARATE CONSIDERATION FOR EACH DEFENDANT

3 Although the defendants are being tried together, you must give separate consideration to
4 each defendant. In doing so, you must determine which evidence in the case applies to each
5 defendant, disregarding any evidence admitted solely against another defendant. The fact that you
6 may find one of the defendants guilty or not guilty should not control your verdict as to any other
7 defendant.

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1 INSTRUCTION NO. 5

2 WHAT IS EVIDENCE

3 The evidence you are to consider in deciding what the facts are consists of:

4 (1) the sworn testimony of any witness;

5 (2) the exhibits received in evidence; and

6 (3) any facts to which the parties have agreed.

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1 INSTRUCTION NO. 6
23 WHAT IS NOT EVIDENCE
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5 In reaching your verdict, you may consider only the testimony and exhibits received into
6 evidence. Certain things are not evidence, and you may not consider them in deciding what the
7 facts are. I will list them for you:

- 8 (1) Arguments and statements by the lawyers are not evidence. The lawyers are
9 not witnesses. What they may say in their opening statements, closing
10 arguments and at other times is intended to help you interpret the evidence,
11 but it is not evidence. If the facts as you remember them differ from the way
12 the lawyers have stated them, your memory of them controls.
- 13 (2) Questions and objections by the lawyers are not evidence. Attorneys have a
14 duty to their clients to object when they believe a question is improper under
15 the rules of evidence. You should not be influenced by the objection or by the
16 court's ruling on it.
- 17 (3) Testimony that is excluded or stricken, or that you are instructed to disregard,
18 is not evidence and must not be considered. In addition, some evidence may
19 be received only for a limited purpose; when I instruct you to consider certain
20 evidence only for a limited purpose, you must do so, and you may not
21 consider that evidence for any other purpose.
- 22 (4) Anything you may see or hear when the court is not in session is not evidence
23 even if what you see or hear is done or said by one of the parties or by one of
24 the witnesses. You are to decide the case solely on the evidence received at
25 the trial.

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1 INSTRUCTION NO. 7

2 DIRECT AND CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE

3 Evidence may be direct or circumstantial. Direct evidence is direct proof of a fact, such as
4 testimony by a witness about what that witness personally saw or heard or did. Circumstantial
5 evidence is indirect evidence, that is, it is proof of one or more facts from which one can find
6 another fact.

7 You are to consider both direct and circumstantial evidence. Either can be used to prove
8 any fact. The law makes no distinction between the weight to be given to either direct or
9 circumstantial evidence. It is for you to decide how much weight to give to any evidence.

10 By way of example, if you wake up in the morning and see that the sidewalk is wet, you
11 may find from that fact that it rained during the night. However, other evidence, such as a turned-
12 on garden hose, may provide a different explanation for the presence of water on the sidewalk.
13 Therefore, before you decide that a fact has been proved by circumstantial evidence, you must
14 consider all the evidence in the light of reason, experience, and common sense.

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1 INSTRUCTION NO. 8

2 CREDIBILITY OF WITNESSES

3 In deciding the facts in this case, you may have to decide which testimony to believe and
4 which testimony not to believe. You may believe everything a witness says, or part of it, or none
5 of it.

6 In considering the testimony of any witness, you may take into account:

7 (1) the opportunity and ability of the witness to see or hear or know the things
8 testified to;

9 (2) the witness's memory;

10 (3) the witness's manner while testifying;

11 (4) the witness's interest in the outcome of the case, if any;

12 (5) the witness's bias or prejudice, if any;

13 (6) whether other evidence contradicts the witness's testimony;

14 (7) the reasonableness of the witness's testimony in light of all the evidence; and

15 (8) any other factors that bear on believability.

16 Sometimes a witness may say something that is not consistent with something else he or
17 she said. Sometimes different witnesses will give different versions of what happened. People
18 often forget things or make mistakes in what they remember. Also, two people may see the same
19 event but remember it differently. You may consider these differences, but do not decide that
20 testimony is untrue just because it differs from other testimony.

21 However, if you decide that a witness has deliberately testified untruthfully about
22 something important, you may choose not to believe anything that witness said. On the other
23 hand, if you think the witness testified untruthfully about some things but told the truth about
24 others, you may accept the part you think is true and ignore the rest.

25 You must avoid bias, conscious or unconscious, based on a witness's race, color,
26 religious beliefs, national ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender, or economic
27 circumstances in your determination of credibility.

28 The weight of the evidence as to a fact does not necessarily depend on the number of

1 witnesses who testify. What is important is how believable the witnesses were, and how much
2 weight you think their testimony deserves.

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1 INSTRUCTION NO. 9

2 RULING ON OBJECTIONS

3 There are rules of evidence that control what can be received in evidence. When a lawyer
4 asks a question or offers an exhibit in evidence and another lawyer thinks that it is not permitted
5 by the rules of evidence, that lawyer may object. If I overrule the objection, the question may be
6 answered or the exhibit received. If I sustain the objection, the question cannot be answered, or
7 the exhibit cannot be received. Whenever I sustain an objection to a question, you must ignore
8 the question and must not guess what the answer would have been.

9 Sometimes I may order that evidence be stricken from the record and that you disregard
10 or ignore the evidence. That means that when you are deciding the case, you must not consider
11 the evidence that I told you to disregard.

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1 INSTRUCTION NO. 10

2 CONDUCT OF THE JURY

3 I will now say a few words about your conduct as jurors.

4 First, keep an open mind throughout the trial, and do not decide what the verdict should
5 be until you and your fellow jurors have completed your deliberations at the end of the trial.

6 Second, because you must decide this case based only on the evidence received in the
7 case and on my instructions as to the law that applies, you must not be exposed to any other
8 information about the case or to the issues it involves during the course of your jury duty. Thus,
9 until the end of the case or unless I tell you otherwise:

10 Do not communicate with anyone and do not let anyone else communicate with you
11 in any way about the merits of the case or anything to do with it. This includes
12 discussing the case in person, in writing, by phone or electronic means, via email,
13 text messaging, or any internet chat room, blog, website or application, including
14 but not limited to Facebook, YouTube, X (formerly known as Twitter), Instagram,
15 LinkedIn, Snapchat, TikTok, or any other forms of social media. This applies to
16 communicating with your fellow jurors until I give you the case for deliberation,
17 and it applies to communicating with everyone else including your family members,
18 your employer, the media or press, and the people involved in the trial, although you
19 may notify your family and your employer that you have been seated as a juror in
20 the case, and how long you expect the trial to last. But, if you are asked or
21 approached in any way about your jury service or anything about this case, you must
22 respond that you have been ordered not to discuss the matter and report the contact
23 to the Court.

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25 Because you will receive all the evidence and legal instruction you properly may
26 consider to return a verdict: do not read, watch or listen to any news or media
27 accounts or commentary about the case or anything to do with it, although I have no
28 information that there will be news reports about this case; do not do any research,

1 such as consulting dictionaries, searching the Internet, or using other reference
2 materials; and do not make any investigation or in any other way try to learn about
3 the case on your own. Do not visit or view any place discussed in this case, and do
4 not use Internet programs or other devices to search for or view any place discussed
5 during the trial. Also, do not do any research about this case, the law, or the people
6 involved—including the parties, the witnesses or the lawyers—until you have been
7 excused as jurors. If you happen to read or hear anything touching on this case in
8 the media, turn away and report it to me as soon as possible.

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10 These rules protect each party's right to have this case decided only on evidence that
11 has been presented here in Court. Witnesses here in Court take an oath to tell the
12 truth, and the accuracy of their testimony is tested through the trial process. If you
13 do any research or investigation outside the courtroom, or gain any information
14 through improper communications, then your verdict may be influenced by
15 inaccurate, incomplete, or misleading information that has not been tested by the
16 trial process. Each of the parties is entitled to a fair trial by an impartial jury, and if
17 you decide the case based on information not presented in Court, you will have
18 denied the parties a fair trial. Remember, you have taken an oath to follow the rules,
19 and it is very important that you follow these rules.

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21 A juror who violates these restrictions jeopardizes the fairness of these proceedings, and
22 a mistrial could result that would require the entire trial process to start over. If any juror is
23 exposed to any outside information, please notify the Court immediately.

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1 INSTRUCTION NO. 11

2 NO TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE TO JURY

3 At the end of the trial, you will have to make your decision based on what you recall of
4 the evidence. You will not have a written transcript of the trial. I urge you to pay close attention
5 to the testimony as it is given.

6 If at any time you cannot hear or see the testimony, evidence, questions, or arguments, let
7 me know by calling out or raising your hand so that I can correct the problem.

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1 INSTRUCTION NO. 12

2 TAKING NOTES

3 If you wish, you may take notes to help you remember the evidence. If you do take notes,
4 please keep them to yourself until you go to the jury room to decide the case. Do not let
5 notetaking distract you. When you leave, your notes should be left in the jury deliberation room.
6 No one will read your notes.

7 Whether you take notes, you should rely on your own memory of the evidence. Notes are
8 only to assist your memory. You should not be overly influenced by your notes or those of other
9 jurors.

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1 INSTRUCTION NO. 13

2 OUTLINE OF TRIAL

3 The next phase of the trial will now begin. First, each side may make an opening
4 statement. An opening statement is not evidence. It is simply an outline to help you understand
5 what that party expects the evidence will show. A party is not required to make an opening
6 statement.

7 The government will then present evidence and counsel for the defendants may cross-
8 examine. Then, if a defendant chooses to offer evidence, counsel for the government may cross-
9 examine.

10 After the evidence has been presented, I will instruct you on the law that applies to the
11 case and the attorneys will make closing arguments.

12 After that, you will go to the jury room to deliberate on your verdict.

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1 INSTRUCTION NO. 14

2 BENCH CONFERENCES AND RECESSES

3 During the trial, I may need to take up legal matters with the attorneys privately, either
4 by having a conference at the bench when the jury is present in the courtroom, or by calling a
5 recess. Please understand that while you are waiting, we are working. The purpose of these
6 conferences is not to keep relevant information from you, but to decide how certain evidence is
7 to be treated under the rules of evidence and to avoid confusion and error.

8 Of course, we will do what we can to keep the number and length of these conferences to
9 a minimum. I may not always grant a request for a conference. Do not consider my granting or
10 denying a request for a conference as any indication of my opinion of the case or of what your
11 verdict should be.

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